



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***STATE ENERGY OFFICE EXPANDS EFFORTS IN CONSERVATION
Expert to Join Staff and Increase Planning, Involvement in Energy Policy***

PHOENIX – Arizona’s Energy Office, housed at the Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC), is highlighting the importance of the state’s role in playing a part in local and national energy policy by adding a seasoned professional to its staff. Jessica Youle, a longtime regulatory policy attorney, will join the office this fall, an appointment Governor Janet Napolitano made official today.

“Jessica brings a wealth of experience and talent to state government, and the Energy Office,” said Governor Napolitano. “Her expertise will be incredibly valuable at such a significant time, when energy matters are becoming increasingly important, and Arizona sets the standard for reasonable and smart energy policy.”

Youle’s career includes a 12-year stint at Salt River Project, where she served as counsel for regulatory policy. Her contributions to SRP came at a critical time, as she worked on developing policies and strategies related to the restructuring of the electric industry and competitive markets. Youle also spent eleven years as an environmental and natural resources attorney at the firm of Lewis and Roca, where she represented a number of industrial and agricultural entities in both regulatory and litigation matters. Her background also includes work in the area of complex commercial litigation, a highly specialized and detailed area of law.

“The Energy Office is making considerable headway in the area of education and awareness,” said Jan Leshar, ADOC director. “It is exciting to have more of a role in developing policy.”

Youle is well-known and respected for her work in the legal community, and also for her experience as a small business owner. Between 1973 and 1984, she co-owned and managed Arizona Raft Adventures, a Flagstaff-based whitewater rafting company. Youle holds a law degree from Arizona State University College of Law, a master’s in secondary education from Springfield College and a bachelor’s in government and international relations from Carleton College.

She will begin her new position in October.